

**PKO-SOUTH CLOSING CEREMONY**

**28 JUL 05**

**VICE PRESIDENT ALENCAR -- MINISTER FELIX -- SECRETARIES --  
FELLOW FLAG AND GENERAL OFFICERS -- AMBASSADOR OKELLO --  
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS -- LADIES AND GENTLEMEN-- GOOD MORNING.**

**GENERAL ALBUQUERQUE -- THANK YOU FOR HOSTING THIS  
TREMENDOUS EXERCISE. YOU HAVE HUMBLLED AND HONORED US  
WITH YOUR HOSPITALITY. THE BRAZILIAN ARMY -- WITH  
CHARACTERISTIC PROFESSIONALISM -- HAS WORKED SHOULDER TO  
SHOULDER WITH US ARMY SOUTH TO BRILLIANTLY PLAN AND  
EXECUTE THIS EXERCISE. ON BEHALF OF ALL WHO HAVE BENEFITED  
FROM YOUR HARD WORK-- I THANK YOU.**

**COMMAND POST EXERCISES SUCH AS PKO-SOUTH OFFER SUPERB  
TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES. WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN  
ABOUT THE VARIOUS AGENCIES AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL  
ORGANIZATIONS THAT PLAY SUCH AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN  
PEACEKEEPING. WE CAN DETERMINE THE CRITICAL ASPECTS OF  
COMMAND RELATIONSHIPS AND DECISION-MAKING BEFORE WE  
DEPLOY THE FIRST SOLDIER. AND IN TODAY'S ENVIRONMENT OF  
LIMITED RESOURCES-- WE MUST TAKE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO TRAIN  
IN REALISTIC AND CHALLENGING -- BUT COST-EFFECTIVE WAYS. WE  
MUST PREPARE FOR TOMORROW'S PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS  
TODAY -- BECAUSE IT APPEARS THAT PEACEKEEPING WILL NOT GO  
AWAY ANY TIME SOON.**

**UNFORTUNATELY-- THE END OF THE COLD WAR DID NOT GIVE RISE TO  
AN ERA OF PEACE -- BUT HAS INSTEAD LEFT US A WORLD  
CHARACTERIZED BY DISORDER AND UNREST. THIS UNCERTAIN WORLD**

HAS BROUGHT ABOUT A GROWING INVOLVEMENT IN PEACEKEEPING BY MILITARY FORCES.

IN THE 1980'S-- THERE WERE ONLY FIVE UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS. WHEN YOU COMPARE THAT FIGURE WITH THE 37 THAT OCCURRED IN THE 1990'S -- IT IS EASY TO SEE THAT THE WORLD HAS BECOME A LESS PREDICTABLE AND ARGUABLY A MORE DANGEROUS PLACE. THE PEACEKEEPING SKILLS AND TASKS THAT YOU HAVE PRACTICED HERE MAY BE EVEN MORE IN DEMAND IN THE COMING YEARS.

DOCTRINE PUTS PEACEKEEPING INTO THAT BROAD CATEGORY OF "LOW INTENSITY CONFLICT." IT MAY WELL BE THAT THE "LOW INTENSITY" LABEL WAS INVENTED BY SOMEONE WHO HAS NEVER DONE PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS. THE UNPREDICTABLE NATURE OF THE PKO ENVIRONMENT MAKES IT VERY INTENSE.

I CANNOT THINK OF ANY OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT BESIDES PEACEKEEPING THAT PUTS A YOUNG OFFICER OR NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER IN A POSITION WHERE HE OR SHE MAY FIND THEMSELVES DISTRIBUTING FOOD -- THEN QUELLING A RIOT -- AND THEN EXCHANGING GUNFIRE WITH ILLEGAL ARMED GROUPS IN A MATTER OF JUST MINUTES OR HOURS.

BUT I DON'T HAVE TO LECTURE YOU ABOUT WHAT PEACEKEEPING IS. FOR MANY OF YOU -- PEACEKEEPING IS FAR BEYOND AN ABSTRACT CONCEPT. YOU ARE ALREADY EXPERTS IN THE FIELD. YOU HAVE HELPED BRING HEALING STABILITY TO AREAS RIPPED APART BY

**CONFLICT. BY YOUR WILLINGNESS TO HELP PEOPLE FAR FROM HOME, YOU HAVE EARNED THE WORLD'S RESPECT AND ADMIRATION.**

**SINCE 1990, LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES HAVE DEPLOYED MORE THAN 20,000 PEACEKEEPERS AROUND THE GLOBE. CURRENTLY -- 12 LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES HAVE A COMBINED 2,700 SECURITY FORCES IN A DOZEN UNITED NATIONS MISSIONS SUCH AS THOSE IN CYPRUS AND THE CONGO. NEARLY 500 LATIN AMERICAN PEACEKEEPERS ARE IN AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ -- AND OVER THREE THOUSAND—FOUR HUNDRED TROOPS FROM LATIN AMERICA ARE IN HAITI.**

**THE ONGOING HAITI PEACEKEEPING MISSION IS A GREAT EXAMPLE OF LATIN AMERICA'S CONTRIBUTION TO HEMISPHERIC SECURITY.**

**IN THE EARLIEST DAYS OF HAITI'S CRISIS IN MARCH OF 2004 -- CHILE-- CANADA-- FRANCE AND THE UNITED STATES DEPLOYED A MULTINATIONAL FORCE UNDER UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTION 1529 -- SETTING THE CONDITIONS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS STABILIZATION MISSION -- OR MINUSTAH -- TO FOLLOW-ON AND ASSUME THE MISSION OF SECURITY AND STABILITY FOR HAITI.**

**BY THE SUMMER OF 2004-- BRAZIL BRAVELY STEPPED FORWARD TO TAKE CHARGE OF MINUSTAH'S MILITARY FORCES AND ARGENTINA-- BOLIVIA-- BRAZIL-- CHILE-- ECUADOR-- GUATEMALA-- PARAGUAY-- PERU AND URUGUAY HAVE SENT MILITARY FORCES TO HAITI. THOSE FORCES HAVE WORKED TIRELESSLY TO ESTABLISH AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT-- SUPPORTED BY DONOR NATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS-- COULD HAVE A CHANCE TO WORK.**

**SINCE THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE MULTINATIONAL INTERIM FORCE AND MINUSTAH -- 400 MILLION DOLLARS HAVE BEEN DISBURSED -- 200 NEW SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN BUILT -- AND 300 KILOMETERS OF ROADS HAVE BEEN REPAIRED AND CONSTRUCTED.**

**MORE THAN TWO MILLION TEXTBOOKS HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED -- THOUSANDS OF JOBS HAVE BEEN CREATED -- AND THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN HAVE BEEN IMMUNIZED. LAST SUMMER-- INTERNATIONAL DONORS PLEDGED TO COMMIT 1.1 BILLION DOLLARS TO HAITI AND TO WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT TO HELP STRENGTHEN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE-- AND PAVE THE WAY FOR DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS THIS FALL**

**AS THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE BEEN TO HAITI CAN ATTEST-- THERE REMAINS MUCH WORK TO BE DONE. FREE AND DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS MUST TAKE PLACE. VIEWPOINTS AND ATTITUDES MUST BE CHANGED. A SECURE ENVIRONMENT MUST BE PROVIDED WHERE DIPLOMATIC-- POLITICAL -- AND ECONOMIC ELEMENTS OF NATIONAL POWER CAN GET TO WORK.**

**THOSE OF YOU WHO TRAIN AND PREPARE TO SUPPORT PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS SHOULD BE JUSTIFIABLY PROUD. YOU HAVE AND ARE CONTINUING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THIS WORLD BY SEPARATING WARRING FACTIONS-- SAVING LIVES-- AND DELIVERING HOPE WHERE HOPELESSNESS HAS FORMERLY PREVAILED.**

**THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN  
PKO-SOUTH - AND TO THE SOLDIERS WHO HAVE DONE SUCH AN  
OUTSTANDING JOB - -- I COMMEND YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION --  
SACRIFICE -- AND PROFESSIONALISM.  
THANK YOU**